



Lewis and Clark County Proclamation

Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail

WHEREAS, Counties are responsible for the care and custody of people entering the criminal justice system through their operation of detention facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Lewis and Clark County and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Lewis and Clark County recognizes the limitations of our current facility and programming but endeavors to improve the criminal justice system through long range planning and targeted initiatives aimed at improving system efficiencies and increasing public safety; and

WHEREAS, through the **Stepping Up Initiative**, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation, are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails for the benefit of those suffering from serious mental illness and to enhance public safety in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT THE LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental

illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in Stepping Up.

We further resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through Stepping Up to:

- Convene a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program and case levels.
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS do hereby adopt the:

Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail

ADOPTED THIS 5th day of August, 2015.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board

Andy Hunthausen, Chairman

Mike Murray, Vice Chair

Susan Good Geise, Member